

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9199

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 399

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIA FOR IBS IEE IPS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, VN, VS

SUBJ: SOVIET MEDIA ON INDOCHINA

1. SOVIET PUBLIC TREATMENT OF VIETNAM IN PAST SEVERAL DAYS
HAS EMPHASIZED OPPOSITION IN U.S. TO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT AND
HAS CONTINUED TO DISTORT REFUGEE SITUATION.

2. PRAVDA APRIL 11 CARRIES A STRONG COMMENTARY BY A. TOLKUNOV
PLAYING UP OPPOSITION IN THE U.S. TO THE VIETNAM WAR. TITLED
"WAS THIS WORTH OUR LIVES?" THE COMMENTARY IS PEGGED TO STATE-
MENTS BY ANTI-VIETNAM AMERICAN VETERANS AND POSES THE QUESTIONS

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OF WHAT BENEFIT WAS GAINED BY THE SHEDDING OF AMERICAN BLOOD

AND BY BREAKING THE HEARTS OF AMERICAN WOMEN BY THE SACRIFICE
OF THEIR LOVED ONES. THE VIEWS OF THE VETS AND OF OTHER
AMERICANS, SYAS TOLKUNOV, ANSWER THOSE WHO PROPOSE NEW ADVENTURES
IN INDOCHINA.

3. IN OTHER REPORTAGE, PRAVDA CARRIES SEVERAL TASS ITEMS
REPORTING THE ATTACKS BY THE "LIBERATION FORCES" NEAR SAIGON,
THE ALLEGED OPPOSITION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES TO ORPHAN RELIEF
PROGRAM, AND SPEAKER ALBERT'S COMMENT THAT HE NOTICED LITTLE
ENTHUSIASM FROM THE CHINESE FOR THE "LIBERATION" SUCCESS IN SVN.
THE LATTER IS CLEARLY INTENDED AS A JAB AT PEKING FOR NOT
SUPPORTING THE "LIBERATORS" ADEQUATELY.

4. PREMIER KOSYGIN, IN HIS APRIL 9 BANQUET SPEECH FOR VISITING
YUGOSLAV PREMIER BIJEDIC (CARRIED IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA
APRIL 10), REITERATED THE STANDARD SOVIET LINE ON THE SUCCESS
OF THE "LIBERATORS" IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, REPEATED THE CHARGE
THAT THE SAIGON ARMY WAS FORCING PEOPLE OUT OF THE AREAS IT
ABANDONED AND SAID THAT "SAIGON NEEDS THE SO-CALLED REFUGEES
TO CONTINUE THE WAR." UNLIKE THE MEDIA, HOWEVER, KOSYGIN DID
NOT MENTION THE U.S.
STOESSEL

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